

Advancing the

AMERICAN PROMISE

Action Tour



In preparation for the new school year, **American Promise** filmmakers, Michèle Stephenson and Joe Brewster, tour the nation to address youth, parents, and educators, driven to promote the success of our nation's black boys. Through engaging their stories, and empowering their voices, parents and educators will leave with action steps and strategies around how we can better serve our black boys, ensuring that all our young people are equipped with the same opportunities for excellence. The **American Promise Campaign** has a set of tools and resources that mobilize the conversation by turning it into action.

The Story



It began in 1999, when filmmakers Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson enrolled their son at one of the most prestigious schools in the country. Turning the camera on themselves, they chronicle their son, Idris, and his best friend, Seun, as they navigate their educational journey. Over 13 years, we see a rare and vivid portrait of two black boys as they struggle with stereotypes and identity amidst parents grappling with how best to support their sons. The film puts a face on the unique social and emotional needs of these boys and poignantly illustrates how we all play a part in the challenges black boys face in creating a healthy self-identity.

NET THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA PREMIERE

Thursday, August 21
6PM Reception
6:30PM Event

UNO Barbara Weitz
Community Engagement Center
6001 Dodge Street

Join us for the premiere of **THE NEED TO SUCCEED: Closing Omaha's Black Male Achievement Gap**, a town hall dialogue focused on the challenges facing young African-American men in Omaha with some solutions for overcoming these obstacles.

EDUCATORS & MENTORS WORKSHOP & BOOK SIGNING with FILMMAKERS

Friday, August 22
4 - 6PM

Omaha Home for Boys
Auditorium
4343 N. 52nd St.

This workshop provides educators & mentors with training on how to better support the unique social and emotional needs of black boys by helping school faculty develop a consciousness of both the subtle and overt interplay between individuals and systems in American education.

PARENTS & YOUTH WORKSHOP & BOOK SIGNING with FILMMAKERS

Saturday, August 23
10AM - Noon

Omaha Home for Boys
Auditorium
4343 N. 52nd St.

These two workshops will lead youth in discussions on strategies for achieving stronger self-esteem and academic success and will give parents the tools and guidance to create small, structured support groups to help their children succeed. The discussions will be framed around the **American Promise** documentary and companion book, **Promises Kept**.

For more information, contact Marthaelen Florence,
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Additional book signings TBA
at selected Omaha book stores and libraries
on Saturday

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